Over 100 'ghost' employees sacked in Thatta

By Our Correspondent

THATTA, Dec 31: A total of 106 employees of different local bodies of Thatta district have been sacked under the directives of the Sindh Governor Lt. Gen. (rtd) Moinuddin Haider, its has been learnt reliably on Thursday.

The governor had directed all the government, semi-government and autonomous bodies to prepare lists of 'ghost' employees drawing salaries from the government exchequer and implement the downsizing plan to stop the pilferage of funds.

After a review of the lists, submitted to the relevant officials, 106 employees were relieved of their duties on Thursday either on the grounds of illegal appointment or surplus staff. It transpired during the review that many of these employees had been drawing salaries for doing no job.

The office of assistant director, Local Governments (ADLG), Makli, issued letters of dismissals to 29 employees of the Union Council Darya Khan Soho, 43 of the Union Council Makli, six of the Union Council Belo and 28 of the Town Committee Gharo.

The ADLG, Thatta, Syed Sher Ali Shah, confirmed the action and said that another comprehensive list of workers, employed in nine Taluka Town Committees and about 48 Union Councils, was being prepared for a review. He, however, said that the purpose for the practice was to streamline the work capability of these bodies.

CEMENT PLANT: The Thatta Cement Factory, a component of the State Cement Corporation, is facing the worst ever financial crisis following detection of massive irregularities and pilferage of funds.

The Customs department has demanded payment of outstanding dues of Rs16.5 million while WAPDA and Sui Southern Gas Company have also intensified pressure on the plant's management to clear their dues amounting to Rs15 million.

EXCAVATION: The Reti Bajri truck owners have moved to Thatta district to collect the commodities following the imposition of ban on such activities in the jurisdiction of Malir district, Karachi.

Despite the ban, also in force in Thatta district, scores of trucks turn up here everyday and take away Reti and Bajri from the hilly track for onward supply to different areas of Karachi.

Local social organizations have drawn the attention of the authorities towards the illegal practice and demanded protection to the historical sites in Bhambhore where digging work by the traders of these commodities has become rampant.

ADMINISTRATOR HELD: A team of the Anti-corruption Establishment (ACE), Thatta, led by its Circle Officer, Zawwar Hussain, conducted a raid on the office of the Union Council Garho and arrested its administrator, Hidayatullah Mangi. The detainee is facing charge of misappropriating Rs1.3 million from the council's funds.

The team also seized the relevant record during the raid.